

## FLATBUSH-TOMPKINS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Watch Night, December 31, 2025 10:30 PM

Reverend Doreen Forde, Interim Minister

**Liturgist** Lorraine Young

**Soloist** Annette Strawder

*Watchman, Watchman, what is the hour?*

**\*Opening Hymn (vs. 1, 2, 6) Our God Our Help in Ages Past**

### Call to Worship:

**Liturgist:** Before we speak, God is here, within us and among us, knocking at our door.

**All: Living God, open what is closed that the Spirit may come in.**

**Liturgist:** Tonight we are keeping watch. Tonight we say goodbye to the old year and old ways.

**All: Open our hands, to give and to greet. Open our minds to new truth and old wisdom.**

**Liturgist:** We watch and wait in hope for the coming of a New Year and new beginnings.

**All: Open our hearts to new and old assurance.**

**Liturgist:** Though darkness is deep, the Light of the World guides our way. Even though we don't know what is to come, we know that God with-us is here. **Living**

**All: God, open what is closed that the Spirit may come in.**

**Invocation and Lord's Prayer** Rev. Doreen Forde

### Responsive Prayer of Confession

Time of Silence (2 minutes) Amen.

**Liturgist:** Gentle Spirit, breath of life, source of our being, from the peacefulness of silence, the silence that preceded Creation. Your Word entered the void and said, "Let there be Light." This Watch Night we sit mindful that we are kin and covenanted to that Word and to Your Light.

**All: We freely confess our sins.**

Liturgist: We have failed to do those things that You would have us to do. We have done those things that you would not have us to do.

**All: Lord in Your mercy, forgive us and hear our prayer.**

**Liturgist:** Living Spirit, You call us into fellowship with You and with one another. We lift up to You our broken relationships, amongst family, friends and here within Your church.

**All: Spirit of the Living God fall fresh on us. Soften our hearts to mend relationships and heal our hearts from sin.**

**Liturgist:** Lord, in Your mercy.

**All: Hear our prayer**

**Assurance of Pardon** Rev. Doreen Forde

*Watchman, Watchman, what is the hour?*

**Hymn** We Gather Together (all verses)

—Agape Feast—

### Testimonies of Thanksgiving and Praise

Watchman, Watchman, what is the hour?

**Old Testament Lesson** Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God. May God add a blessing to the reading of the Holy Word. All: Thanks be to God.

**Hymn of Preparation** In His Time

**Sermon** Stepping Into A New Season

**Prayers for a New Year and a New Day** Rev. Forde

### **Litany of strength for the journey:**

**Liturgist:** We thank You Lord, that You have strengthened us through Your nearness.

**All: We pray that you would grant that our ears, that have heard Your word may**

**Liturgist:** Gracious God, let our eyes, which have seen your great love, envision the blessedness which you have promised.

**All: Let the people who have come tonight into your presence not stray from your way and your light, Lord Jesus Christ, in Your name we pray that you will lead us with your hand. So that from the many, we may become one. Amen.**

*Watchman, Watchman, what is the hour?*

### **Passing the Peace**

#### **Closing Hymn**

#### **Another Year is Dawning**

*Watchman, Watchman, what is the hour?*

### **Benediction**

#### **Our God, Our Help in Ages Past**

Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure; Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.

Our god, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last, And our eternal home

*Isaac Watts*

### **IN HIS TIME, IN HIS TIME**

In His time, In His time

He makes all things beautiful

In his time

Lord please show me everyday

A you're teaching me your way

That you do just what you say

In your time

In your time, in your time

You make all things beautiful

In your time

Lord my life to you I bring

May each song I have to sing

Be to you a lovely thing

In your time

*Linda Diane Ball*

### **We Gather Together**

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing

He chastens and hastens His will to make known.

The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,

Sing praises to His name; He forgets not His own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,

Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine,

So from the beginning the fight we were winning; Thou,

Lord, wast at our side, all glory be Thine.

We all do extol Thee, Thou leaders triumphant,

And pray that Thou still our defender wilt be.

Let Thy congregation escape tribulation,

Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

*Arr: Kremser*

Another Year Is Dawning sung to the tune "The Church's One Foundation"

Another year is dawning! Dear Father, let it be,  
In working or in waiting, Another year with Thee;  
Another year of progress, Another year of praise,  
Another year of proving thy presence all the days.

Another year of mercies, Of faithfulness and grace,  
Another year of gladness, In the shining of Thy face;  
Another year of leaning, Upon Thy loving breast,  
Another year of trusting, Of quiet, happy rest.

Another year of service, Of witness for Thy love,  
Another year of training, For holier work above;  
Another year is dawning! Dear Father, let it be,  
On earth, or else in heaven, Another year for Thee. A-men.

*Samuel S. Wesley*